

# The Story About Ping

by Marjorie Flack and Kurt Wiese

Follow along with Ping on the unforgettable journey he takes all because he wanted to avoid a spanking.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How many of you have ever tried to hide somewhere so you would not get into trouble?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if this duck can swim?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *The Story About Ping*

- wise: knowledgeable about many subjects
- rose: ascended
- marched: to proceed somewhere on foot, in a disciplined military or military-style formation
- bridge: a structure that is built above and across a river to allow people to cross it
- hunt: to pursue an animal with the intention of killing it for food
- snails: a small organism with a coiled shell and a retractable muscular foot on which it crawls
- pleasant: bringing feelings of pleasure, enjoyment, or satisfaction
- evening: the part of the day between afternoon and night, as daylight begins to fade
- scurrying: to move at a hurried pace
- careful: cautious
- pale: producing little light
- strange: unfamiliar
- swooped: to descend quickly and suddenly with a sweeping movement, usually from the air
- crumbs: small fragment of bread, cake, cookie, or similar food
- floating: to move or rest on the surface of a liquid without sinking
- tender: soft enough for the teeth to go through easily without much chewing
- oars: wooden pole used to propel a boat
- swiftly: moving quickly
- paddle: to move the hands or feet about in water

## After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How many sisters does Ping have? How many brothers? Aunts? Uncles? Cousins?
- What always happened to the last duck to cross the bridge?
- Why couldn't Ping hear the call back to the boat?
- What did Ping decide to do since he knew he would be the last duck to cross the bridge?
- What did the dark fishing birds have around their necks? Why?
- What do you think Ping thought when the boy caught him?
- What did the boy's mother and father want to do with Ping?
- Why do you think the little boy let Ping go?
- Did Ping receive a spanking for being late?
- Do you think Ping will ever be the last duck to get on the boat again?



**Do**

## The Story About Ping Sequence Cards

Print out a set of *The Story About Ping* Sequence Cards. Cut them out and ask the children to put them in the correct chronological order. When in order, staple together to make a mini book.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Story About Ping Sequence Cards

Arrange the series of cards into the logical order to create *The Story About Ping*.

Ping and his family march down the little bridge.

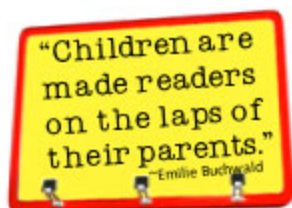
Ping looks for fish.

Ping misses the wise-eyed boat and sleeps in the grass.

Ping searches for his family.

Ping watches dark fishing birds.

Ping follows little floating crumbs.



My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Story About Ping Sequence Cards

Arrange the series of cards into the logical order to create *The Story About Ping*.

A little boy  
catches Ping.

Ping is under a  
basket.

The little boy  
frees Ping.

Ping sees his  
family.

Ping gets  
spanked.

Ping is happy to  
be home with his  
family.

